

foreign-sourced palm oil is allowed into the RFS program. Congress always intended for the RFS to support domestic biofuel production, not imports.

I appreciate that oil palm trees have the potential to provide efficient, low-carbon oil, but the United States must take a stand against human rights abuses and destructive cultivation practices that set us back in our efforts to combat climate change and global deforestation. American foreign relief, including financing provided under the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, cannot support unsustainable practices, enable foreign corruption, or contribute to forced labor, child labor, or the displacement of indigenous peoples.

Madam Speaker, the United States must ensure that palm oil imports are grown in a lawful, sustainable, ethical, and responsible manner. I urge all Members to join me in co-sponsoring the "End Palm Oil Deforestation Act."

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF
PHOENIX PRIDE

HON. RUBEN GALLEGO

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 4, 2021

Mr. GALLEGO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 40th annual Phoenix Pride Festival and Parade which will take place on November 6th and 7th. Each year, this event brings together Arizonans, entertainers, vendors, and community resources to celebrate and uplift members of the Arizona LGBTQ+ community and to further Phoenix Pride's mission of creating a more diverse, inclusive, and equal Arizona.

In addition to celebrating the 40th anniversary of Phoenix Pride, I would also like to recognize and thank the Phoenix Pride Community Foundation which has given over \$1 million in contributions since its creation. The Phoenix Pride Community Foundation supports the work of non-profits serving the LGBTQ+ community in Arizona through its grants programs and helps LGBTQ+ students and allies achieve their dreams of higher education through its scholarship program.

Since its founding in 1981, Phoenix Pride has been a beacon of hope and acceptance for the Phoenix LGBTQ+ community. Thanks in part to the hard work of Phoenix Pride, Phoenix ranks among the most LGBTQ+-friendly cities in the state, with protections against discrimination and a strong, involved LGBTQ+ community. While significant progress has been made in recent years, Phoenix Pride continues to tirelessly work to combat homophobia, transphobia, and discrimination in Arizona and across the country.

I would like to again congratulate Phoenix Pride on their 40th Festival and Parade, thank them for their work to make Phoenix a more inclusive and just city, and wish them all the best on another 40 years.

HONORING THE LIFE OF FORMER
VIRGINIA GOVERNOR, LINWOOD
HOLTON, JR.

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 4, 2021

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I take this time to remember former Virginia Governor Linwood Holton Jr., who passed away on October 28, 2021. Linwood was the state of Virginia's first Republican governor elected post-Reconstruction, and his tireless efforts for political cooperation between the two parties led to progress that would impact not only the Commonwealth, but the entire nation.

Linwood's love for politics was sparked at a young age. In high school, he was involved in a mock government program that was run through Virginia Tech. It was at this point that Linwood realized his long-term goal in life was to serve as governor of Virginia. He then began his studies at Washington and Lee, but in 1943, he entered the Navy as an engineering officer, serving with the Submarine Force. After the war, Linwood finished his undergraduate degree at Washington and Lee and was admitted to Harvard Law School, where he graduated in 1949.

Throughout Linwood's time as Governor from 1970 through 1974, he was a champion for civil rights that led the effort to end racial discrimination in Virginia. He was the first governor of Virginia to appoint black individuals to high-level government posts. He also led by example during the integration of public schools in Virginia, when he sent his children to schools being integrated.

Linwood's life was filled with patriotism and public service. Linwood believed in two-party cooperation, often reaching across the aisle to consider and enact state-wide policies that would benefit Virginians. He will be missed for his passion for change, but his impact will live on.

He is survived by his wife Virginia, his four children, Anne, Tayloe, Woody, and Dwight, and several grandchildren. His son-in-law, Senator Tim Kaine, continues his legacy of public service.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me and countless others as we recognize the many contributions of Linwood Holton, Jr.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 4, 2021

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, due to personal reasons, I was unable to vote on November 3, 2021. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on roll call No. 354, and YEA on roll call No. 355.

IN RECOGNITION OF MAYOR
JAMES GORRIS' 16 YEARS OF
SERVICE TO THE CITY OF GI-
BRALTAR

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 4, 2021

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mayor James Gorris on the occasion of his retirement after over 16 years of service to the City of Gibraltar, Michigan. His significant contributions to the Gibraltar community are worthy of commendation.

Born in Wyandotte, Michigan and a graduate of Lincoln Park High School, Mayor James Gorris is a downriver native. He was first elected to his position in 2009 and was reelected 6 more times until his retirement. Before becoming Mayor of Gibraltar, he served the community as a member of the Gibraltar City Council.

During his tenure as Mayor, Mayor Gorris has improved the lives of Gibraltar residents in many ways. He has led the way in obtaining grants for investments in infrastructure, including the replacement of the bridge over Middle Gibraltar Road, a path for walkers and bikers along the boundary of the Detroit International Wildlife Refuge, and the City's renewal of the water system. Mayor Gorris has worked closely with stakeholders on the multimillion dollar plan to renovate and repurpose the old McLouth Steel Plant.

All who know him can attest to his strength of character and commitment to making Gibraltar a better place for all. Mayor Gorris credits his success to the hard work and dedication of city employees, the city council, and Gibraltar's police and fire departments. His strong relationships within his own community, as well as with state, local, and federal leaders made him a stellar advocate for the exceptional place that he calls home. Mayor Gorris and his wife Tamey have four grown children and they reside in Gibraltar.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mayor James Gorris for his exemplary 16 years of service to the City of Gibraltar, Michigan. I join with Jim's family, friends, and colleagues in extending my best wishes to him in retirement.

HONORING CAPTAIN DAN STEPHAN

HON. GREG PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 4, 2021

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Captain Dan Stephan on his retirement from the Madison, Indiana Police Department following 45 years of public service.

Captain Stephan joined the Madison Police Department on August 29, 1976. Daniel "D.J." Stephan rose through the ranks and was appointed Captain on July 9, 2000. Captain Stephan is Madison's longest serving merit police officer.

Throughout his many years with the Madison Police Department, Captain Stephan served as a firearms instructor and won several "top gun" awards in competition. After working 44 city parades, Captain Stephan

served as the Grand Marshall of this year's Madison July 4th Parade.

My friend, Chief of Police John Wallace noted that D.J.'s "fellow MPD officers will greatly miss him."

Captain Stephan is a dedicated public servant and highly regarded by all. I thank Captain Stephan for his service to Madison. I wish him all the best in a well-deserved retirement.

DOD JOINT TASK FORCES TO SUPPORT LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 4, 2021

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, today I introduce legislation to make permanent and expand the U.S. Department of Defense's authority to use funds from the counterterrorism and drug interdiction budgetary account for federal interagency Joint Task Forces.

These DOD Joint Task Forces coordinate the military and federal agencies on counter-narcotics, counterterrorism, or counter-transnational organized crime activities. United States Africa Command (AFRICOM) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service use this Joint Task Forces funding authority to conduct anti-trafficking and poaching activities in Sub-Saharan Africa. As the former Deputy Secretary of the Interior during the Clinton Administration, I strongly support USFWS's International Affairs Program and wildlife conservation work globally, particularly by that agency's law enforcement officers.

Since first authorized by the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004 (Public Law 108-136), Congress has renewed the authority for these Joint Task Forces several times on a temporary basis. Without Congressional action in the NOAA, this authority will sunset at the end of fiscal year 2022. As chairman of the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Readiness, I plan to make permanently reauthorizing this critical authority a priority during the FY2022 NOAA conference negotiations.

In the House-passed FY2020 NOAA (Public Law 116-92), I secured directive report language on the military's support for combating illicit trafficking, including wildlife and wildlife products. Making the authority for these Joint Task Forces permanent builds upon that work.

Madam Speaker, I look forward to continue working with my colleagues on the House Armed Services Committee to support AFRICOM's efforts with other federal agencies to combat wildlife trafficking and poaching.

KEN KLEIN RETIREMENT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 4, 2021

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I rise in recognition of the retirement of Ken Klein, who has served as the Executive Vice President for the Out of Home Advertising Association of America (OAAA) for the past two decades. During his time at OAAA, Ken has

driven the billboard industry into a new era of public service.

Ken spearheaded the OAAA's public-service partnerships with various agencies and non-profits—including the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC)—to seek new ways to inform and protect Americans.

The FBI partnership is an excellent example of how law enforcement, the private sector, and the public can collectively bring criminals to justice in today's digital age. As a result of Ken's efforts, the FBI has new tools to promote safety and rapidly share information in dangerous situations.

The collaboration and the speed with which digital billboards can publicize crucial fugitive and crime-related information was key to the success of numerous investigative efforts in 2020. For example, outdoor advertising helped nab the "Travelling Bandit"—a serial bank robber—in 2019 and raised awareness on a notorious drug cartel fugitive in 2020 after the individual was added to the FBI's "Ten Most Wanted Fugitives" list. All in all, the FBI credits the capture of 58 fugitives as a direct result of billboard publicity.

Digital billboards have also proved to be a vital tool in disaster preparation and response. A case study posted on FEMA's website reports that, "Digital technology enables quick delivery of emergency messages via high-tech billboards. Public-private partnerships harness these high-tech signs to inform the public about weather warnings, evacuation routes, and safety-related information."

Advances in technology mean that the billboard industry can deliver information in ways unavailable a generation ago. The message on a digital billboard can be changed by computer in an instant.

On August 1, 2007, the I-35W Bridge collapsed in Minneapolis. Within 15 minutes, emergency messages were displayed on digital billboards throughout the area.

After Tropical Storm Fay in August of 2008, 37 different messages were displayed on more than 75 digital billboards in 11 counties in Florida.

When Albuquerque experienced a natural gas emergency, the city quickly posted messages on digital billboards asking the public to lower thermostats and reduce hot water usage.

Immediately after the massive Japanese earthquake in 2011, tsunami warnings appeared on digital billboards on the West Coast.

Finally, Ken also led a partnership with the NCMEC. Because of his hard work, more than 500 AMBER Alerts have been displayed on digital billboards across the country. Law enforcement and NCMEC rely on these high-tech signs to help locate missing children and to apprehend child abductors.

Please join me in extending congratulations to Ken, on the occasion of his retirement, for his successful leadership of OAAA's public-private partnerships, and his contributions to public safety.

HONORING LAKETIA MARSHALL-THOMAS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 4, 2021

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a resilient individual, Laketia Marshall-Thomas.

Laketia Marshall-Thomas, a native from Bolton, Mississippi, is the Assistant Superintendent for High Schools with the Jackson Public School District. Mrs. Thomas has served in the field of education for 23 years, which includes her previously serving as Principal of Provine High School from 2011 to 2017, Curriculum and Instruction Assistant Principal at Lanier High School from August 2009 to May 2011, and Assistant Principal at Whitten Middle School from August 2008 to May 2009. She also served as a Mathematics Coach at Blackburn Middle School from August 2006 to May 2008. She established her career as an educator at Brinkley Middle School where she taught Algebra I and 8th grade mathematics from 1997 to 2006 and served as the Girls' Basketball Coach.

Mrs. Thomas's strong commitment is confirmed as a scholar in her educational achievements, which include Hinds County Public School System and attended Hinds County Agricultural High School. Mrs. Thomas began her post-secondary education at Tougaloo College, where she received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Chemistry in 1994. She attended Clark Atlanta University, where she pursued a Master of Science degree in Polymer Chemistry and furthered her studies at Mississippi College receiving a Master of Science and an Educational Specialist in Educational Leadership in 2006 and 2008, respectively. She is currently in dissertation status at Mississippi College pursuing a doctoral degree in Educational Leadership.

Superior academic performance is at the forefront of her instructional goals and has led to school, community, and district recognition. While serving in leadership capacities at Provine High School, Lanier High School, and Blackburn Middle School, Mrs. Thomas was recognized for moving each school from their underperforming status to a level of satisfactory progress. She has been selected as the High School Division's Administrator of the Year for two years. She led student participation in Jackson State University's statewide S.T.E.M. Team Competition with Lanier High School and Provine High School winning first place, both years of participation. Additionally, the Jackson City Council awarded her the Amos Wright Award for community involvement and superior academic performance in 2012 and 2020, and the Outstanding Leadership in Education Award in 2016. She has also received numerous accolades from faculty, staff, and student organizations in recognition of her leadership, loyalty, and service in public education.

Mrs. Thomas prides herself on keeping her life in balance with a strong commitment to God and a loving family. She is married to Jonathan Thomas, Sr. and they have two sons, the late Jonathan, Jr. and Jonah Thomas. Mrs. Thomas strongly believes that schools are "A Building With Four Walls and Tomorrow Inside".